

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-50 are pending in this application. Claims 21-34, 39-44, and 50 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,290. Claims 35-38 and 45-48 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 49 is allowed.

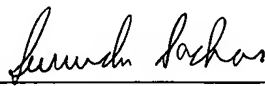
Initially, applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

Addressing the double patenting rejection, that rejection is traversed by the present response. Filed with the present response is a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,290. The submission of that Terminal Disclaimer is believed to traverse the outstanding double patenting rejection.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS/rac

I:\ATTY\SNS\24'S\244612\244612US-AM2.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423